

Tattersall's NEWS



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A CENTURY OF TREASURED TRADITION

Our Club's luncheon for the Centenary of the Tattersall's Club Act of Parliament on Wednesday, May 4 was a memorable fraternal and, for many senior members, nostalgic occasion.

Perhaps it is notable, too, that the anniversary fell in the nation's bicentennial year. Let us devoutly hope that the Club maintains its treasured traditions and fellowship throughout and beyond its second century.

Chairman David Dransfield, our luncheon host, welcomed members and guests, particularly former Tattersall's Club Chairmen Keith Moremon, Geoff Eastment and Tony McSweeney, together with guests Ted Cowper, of the Tasmanian Club and Terry Smith, Chairman of Newcastle Jockey Club.

David then entertained the company with an outline of the Club's history. He said:

"Most of you will be aware that the concept of Tattersall's Club, Sydney, developed from meetings of a small group of Sydney residents, interested in all sporting pursuits but particularly in horse racing.

"These meetings in 1858 centred around a hostelry known as the Mayor's Inn, which was owned by one Mr. W. J. O'Brien who, perhaps not without some self interest, was the driving force behind the creation of a meeting place where betting transactions could be made.

"It was not long before the name 'Tattersall's' was adopted and it became an accepted fact that Tattersall's was the controller of betting transactions on and off course in the colony of New South Wales.

"It is not certain that the name was suggested by O'Brien, but it seems probable that this was the case and that he had in mind the development of a club along similar lines to the well known English establishment.

"O'Brien soon changed the name of his premises to Tattersall's Hotel and set aside a room known as the subscription room which was made available for the exclusive use of those who paid a yearly fee or subscription for the privilege.

"On 14th May, 1858, a meeting was held for the purpose of appointing a committee of management for the current year. The following extract is from the 15th May, 1858 issue of Bell's Life of Sydney, a leading journal of the time:

'Notwithstanding the unusual

inclemency of the weather, upwards of forty gentlemen, subscribers to Mr. O'Brien's new subscription room, assembled to celebrate the formal inauguration of this desirable institution, and sat down to a banquet provided by the worthy host, in every regard exceptionable. Mr. Robert Fisher presided, supported by Roberts and Lemon, Esquires. Covers were laid for double the number but the absence of the minority was fully excused by the relentless elements which fell in torrents.

'A recognised establishment of this kind is one of the most effectual aids towards preserving that integrity and good faith between man and man, departures from which, we rejoice to add, in this colony but rarely occur.

Patrons' Support

'The support which these subscription rooms have received from patrons of the turf in all quarters, including the great Tattersall's of the British capital, is a matter of history.

'We entertain every confidence that the Committee of Management will compile so stringent a code of laws regulating the admission of members that no objectionable member will succeed in obtaining membership, and we have equal confidence in the proprietor's determination to second the labours of the committee by continuing to uphold the respectability which was ever attached, under the present management, to the Mayor's Inn, now known as Tattersall's.'

From this quaint quotation David continued:

"Over the next thirty years the power and authority of Tattersall's waxed and waned, and there were a number of disagreements with the Australian Jockey Club in regard to the conduct of race meetings, in spite of the fact that Tattersall's had provided prizemoney for the first two race meetings conducted by the A.J.C.

"However, by 1880, Tattersall's was developing into an important force in the racing world, with increasing responsibility to the public at large.

Incorporation

"To forestall any problems which might arise from this situation and to establish once and for all the club's legal status and responsibilities, a move was made to have it incorporated by Act of Parliament.

"Mr. J. B. Ollife, M.L.A., who had become Chairman of Tattersall's in 1880, was instrumental in having the N.S.W. Legislature, on 4th May, 1888, assent to 'an Act to enable the members of Tattersall's Club to sue, and to be sued, in the name of the Chairman, to alter its existing rules: and in other respects to carry out the objects of the club'.

"It set out that 'The objects of this club shall be to initiate and conduct race meetings, to foster the sport of horseracing and the breeding of thoroughbred blood horses, to encourage amateur sport, to provide a clubhouse and recreation and accommodation for members, and to assist any charitable, benevolent, patriotic or philanthropic purpose as may be consistent with or necessary to the above.'

"And so," David said, "the club was now incorporated and proceeded to formulate plans for the creation of its own club house which was completed in 1891 in Pitt Street. This remained the home of the club until 1927 when we moved to our existing premises.

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A Record Snooker Auction

Records are made to be broken, and this certainly applied at our recent Snooker Auction.

One hundred members attended, a record number considering there were only 105 entrants for our Annual Tournament. Bidding for ownership of players was very vigorous.

Eddie Charlton, by far the most sought-after contestant, played Malcolm McCallum on Friday, 13th May.

Eddie ran out an easy winner finishing with a 50 break. Malcolm was unfortunate to be snookered off the break and thereafter was unable to get into the game.

Peter Twigg, our Chairman, is recovering from back surgery and is expected to participate in the tournament. Harold Cruikshank has recovered from a mild stroke and is also expected to participate. Norm Rogers has made a splendid recovery to good health.

Several matches have been decided, Bob Richards defeated Adrian Abbott, Michael Armstrong defeated Phil Byrnes, Mark Twigg was victorious against John Peoples and Brian Creed defeated George Bloomfield. Simon Lill won on the black against John Gratton.

Final 32

We expect to reach the final 32 by the first three weeks in June. Invitations will be sent at the end of this month for the "Calling of the Card." This will again be a night for members, as guests of the Billiard and Snooker Sub-Committee.

Some snooker room news is headed by Col Pearce's improved play due to his new stance. Bill Henneberry is playing beautifully and is a definite chance. Bob Lavigne has a big chance, provided he gets a big audience.

The two Cooper Brothers are both playing well and maybe this will be Frank's year.

The championship table is playing well. We have had the cloth stretched and under Paddy Morgan's careful supervision our tables are the best in Sydney.

I am very pleased to welcome several new and young players from the 3rd floor. Michael Gazel, John Joyce, Bart Adams and Marius Podeska, and hopefully, a flow of new players to join in our activities on the second floor in the near future.

With two more Ansett Hayman Island holiday pairs to go, Brian Creed is still leading followed by Ken Upton — it should be a close finish.

Doug Jordan



Club member Michael McCallum and Eddie Charlton wish each other well before their match.

Vale Shirley Field

Shirley Field, who graced the first floor bar in the sixties and seventies, died suddenly on May 1st.

Shirley will be fondly remembered by many members, including the writer.

She was particularly considerate with new members, introducing them to other members if they were on their own.

Shirley died doing what she had so enjoyed doing over the years — barracking for her beloved Balmain Tigers.

David Dransfield

NEW MEMBERS

Azzize, Joseph John, Solicitor for Aust. Govt. Solicitor's Office.

Barwell, David Thomas, Group General Manager & Company Director for P&O Aust. Ltd.

Brinkworth, Donald Maxwell, Investment Manager for a unit of the Merchant Banking Division of State Bank of N.S.W.

Cowell, Richard Ford, Director for Tasman Cowell & Co. Pty. Ltd.

Fuller, Jaimie Royston, Factory Manager for Craft Printing Industries.

Harle, Gregory Aird, Solicitor for McBride, Harle & Co.

Hughes, Darel Ferguson, Chartered Accountant for Horwath & Horwath Solicitors.

Kenrick, Herry Anthony, Company Director for Fibron Industries.

MacDonald, Ian Anthony, State Manager for Barclays Aust. (Finance) Ltd.

Mohr, Clinton Matthew, Law Clerk for Shaw McDonald, Solicitors.

McBride, Peter Michael, Solicitor for McBride, Harle & Co.

McMullen, Darren William, Manager Commercial Finance for Barclays Aust. Ltd.

Sullivan, Martin Roy, Orthopaedic Registrar for Royal Prince Alfred Hospital.

Rymill, Scott Stanley, Marketing Services Analyst for Capita Benefits Planning.

Annual General Meeting

Members are reminded that the Club's annual general meeting will be held in the Club Room on Wednesday June 15 at 6 p.m. The Committee hopes as many members as possible will attend.

Swimming Club

With only a couple of months remaining before the Club Championships, it seems certain that all grades will be keenly contested.

Many of our swimmers have been competing and performing well in outside events such as AUSSI in order to keep in good shape.

Tuesday and Thursday events on the third floor have been attracting big fields and quite a few new members of the club have begun racing.

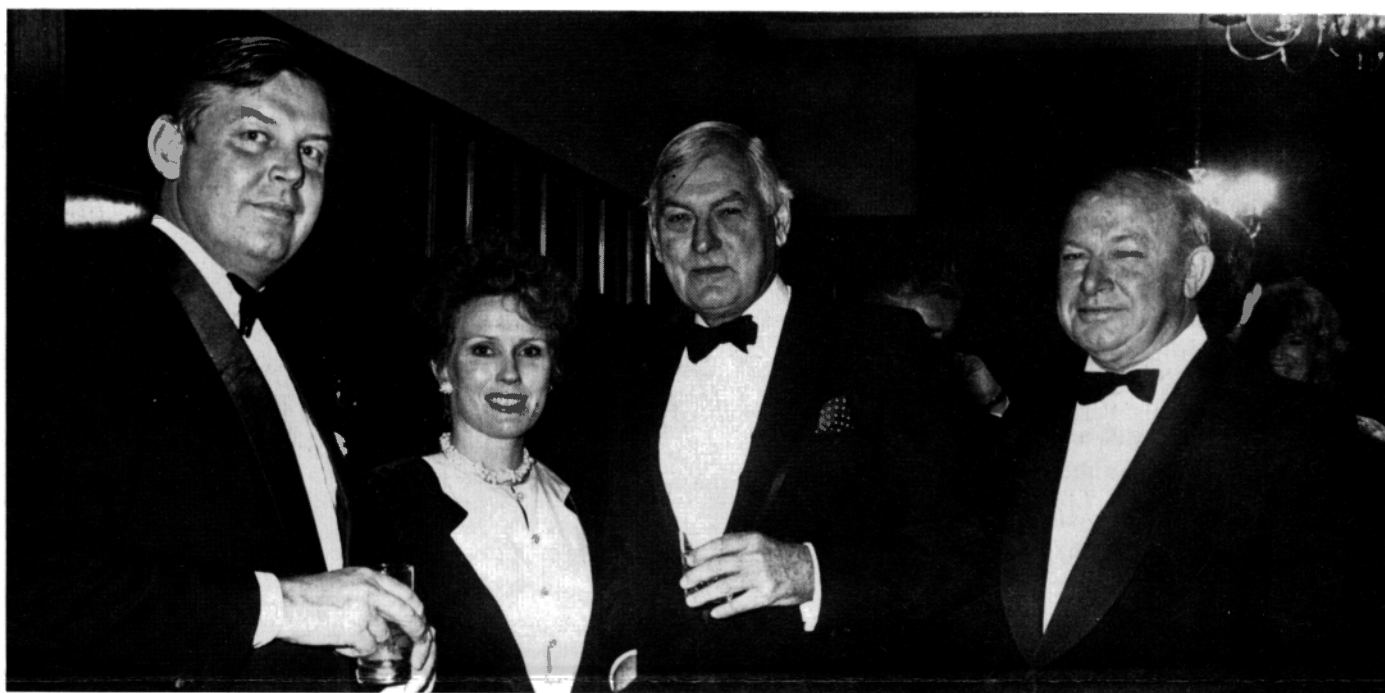
The points score positions at the end of March were as follows:-

40 YARD EVENTS	POINTS
Rick Glover	145
John Nicholas	129
Mel Holecek	117½
Bill Debney	113
Rob Farrell	112
Ted Joye	106
Terry Forrest	103½
Gordon Salier	96
David Dind	93½
Paul Donohoe	91½
Andrew Torok	90

WINS	
John Nicholas	7½
Rick Glover	6
Mel Holecek	5½
Mike McCormack	5
Bill Debney	4
Paul Donohoe	4
Mike Gillis	4
John McCosker	4
David Milman	4

80 YARD EVENTS	POINTS
John Barrell	131
John Nicholas	117
Terry Forrest	104
Bill Debney	101
Rob Farrell	99
Andrew Torok	93½
Gary Wilson	91
Rick Glover	87

WINS	
Terry Forrest	9½
John Barrell	7
Rick Glover	7
John Nicholas	7
Paul Donohoe	6
Andrew Torok	6
Garry Wilson	6
Rob Farrell	5½
John Barker	5½



Tatts Committeeman Malcolm Stening, Mrs Stening, Mr Rowland Smith and Club Chairman David Dransfield.

SYDNEY CUP DINNER

Tattersall's Sydney Cup dinner on April 7 was an extremely happy affair. The Guest of Honour, The Hon Robert Rowland Smith, M.P., N.S.W. Minister for Sport, Recreation and Racing, is a Club member. He was accompanied by Mrs Rowland Smith.

The Committee was pleased to have as special guests A.J.C. Chairman Jim Bell, Sydney Club Chairman Des Withall and Mrs Withall and Masonic Club Chairman Lindsay Graham and Mrs Graham. Des Hoysted was Guest Broadcaster and Larry Olsen Guest Jockey.

The Committee extended special thanks to Angela Belle McSweeney, daughter of former Chairman Tony, who obtained from Elizabeth Arden samples of Chloe and Lagefield Soaps for guests and a magnificent basket of Elizabeth Arden products for a lucky door prize.

After the dinner guests danced to the music of a three-piece combo engaged for the evening.



Mrs Robert Rowland Smith, wife of the Minister for Sport and Mrs Myra Alexander, wife of A.J.C. Racing Manager, Ray Alexander.

A Century of Treasured Tradition (cont. from page 1)

"There is no doubt that the incorporation of the club was the turning point in its history and ensured its survival to the present day.

"Tattersall's Club today is still faithful to the original objects of its founders.

"But Tattersall's Club is many things to many members. To some it is still a racing club, which it indeed is. To some it is a swimming and athletic club, to some it is a billiards and snooker club, a ski club, etcetera. To some it is simply a very pleasant place to eat and drink in salubrious surroundings.

"To many it is all of these things, for Tattersall's has developed into a

many-faceted club, unique in our city and possibly Australia.

"Our membership has become diverse to a point where we not only count in our ranks racing and sporting identities, but also members of the judiciary, other members of the legal profession, medical practitioners, public servants, members of Parliament, businessmen and many others.

"The strength of Tattersall's today, as in the past, lies in its members. The Bruce Upcrofts, the Eric Puckles, the Cecil O'Deas, the Bill Sellens, the Peter Whitfields.

"Nor should we forget the contribution by our staff, not only

Norman Smith, our Secretary, but also people like Pauline and Angela and others in the dining room, George and his kitchen staff, Irene with functions, Yvonne on the second floor, Les and Arthur on the desk, Margaret and the others in the office and all the other loyal employees of this Club.

"It is a significant coincidence that, as we celebrate the Centenary of our incorporation, we are about to embark on perhaps the greatest era in the Club's history with the redevelopment of our present premises.

"Fellow members and guests, will you please rise as I give you the toast, Tattersall's Club."

Our bowlers held their ends up

Though sadly missing top players Bill West and Jim Williams as well as some other No. 1's, our team performed creditably in the 1988 Turf Bowlers of Australia Association's 23rd annual carnival, at Melbourne.

The team finished fourth of the nine States competing at Middle Park and Melbourne Clubs.

Final scoring details: Perth Tatts, 41½; Victorian Club, 38½; Newcastle, 30; Sydney Tatts, 25½; Canberra, 25; City Tatts, 24½; Brisbane, 12½; Melbourne, 9½; Adelaide, 9.

The host Club, Tatts Bowlers, Melbourne, Turf Bowling Section, provided a comprehensive entertainment programme. This included social bowls for visiting ladies and a day at Sandown races with members' privileges by courtesy of the Victorian Amateur Turf Club.

Tatts Bowlers Melbourne, President Les Jacobs warmly welcomed the visitors at Middle Park Club, with drinks and supper on the evening of Sunday, March 20.

Race caller Bill Collins officially opened the bowls carnival on the following morning.

The teams then played the first three rounds of 15 ends. Tuesday was free and the visitors attended the Sandown race meeting.

On Wednesday the carnival continued at Melbourne Bowling Club. In the evening all were entertained at the farewell dinner and presentation of trophies at the Town House Hotel's Panorama Room.

Ladies were welcome at all functions, including lunch on bowls days.

The Victorian Bookmakers Association donated trophies and Jack Cole, Registered Bookmaker Member of the Victorian Club, the bowls cloths.

Carnival sponsors were: A.C.I., Australian Airlines, Australian Allied Assurance, C.U.B., J.W. Mikkelsen Garage Door Centre Pty. Ltd., S. Smith & Sons, Vintage Insurance Advisory Services and Westpac Banking Corporation.

With such generous sponsorship this socially and competitively great event will continue to flourish.

Our own Bowling Club's forthcoming social and matches programme is: Thursday June 2 — Double Bay; Thursday June 9 — City Bowling Club; Thursday June 16 — Double Bay; Thursday June 23 — Double Bay. Contact S. Callinan, Match Committee 358 4284.

Tim Anderson



Above: Sydney Tatts v Perth Tatts on the opening day of the Melbourne carnival. Our players in the group are Jack Taverner, Lead; Harold McKay, Second; Bill Miles, Third and Tim Anderson, Skip. Below: Another of our fours at the carnival: S. Callinan, Lead; D. Solomon, Second; F. Page, Third and L. Clark, Skip.



A time to help your Club

As Chairman David Dransfield so truly said at our Centenary luncheon, Tattersall's Club is many things to many members, however diverse their specific interests and recreational activities.

These apart, their most common bond is pride in membership, privileged entry to a fraternity of gentlemen imbued with the spirit of goodwill and friendship.

Throughout the Club's hundred years this sentiment has staunchly supported its founding principles and aims.

This has never been more clearly demonstrated than today in members' ready acceptance of some inconvenience during the Club's forthcoming redevelopment. Their patience will be well rewarded when that is completed.

The Club Committee now looks to members for individual support

in its efforts to attract new members.

As most are aware, our numbers have declined in recent times for a variety of reasons, none of which suggest disenchantment with the Club or its many amenities.

The Committee offers special incentive to prospective members in waiving the entrance fee and reducing the annual subscription — for those under 28 to only half the normal amount.

New members will have the added advantage of assured membership priority when the Club moves into its new premises, while many other applicants will join an expected waiting list.

Those joining in the interim will enjoy the hospitality several other prestigious city clubs have generously offered Tattersall's members during the redevelopment.